

# NEHEMIAH

BUILDING A CITY  
WITHIN THE CITY

**Week 11**  
**Return to the City**

Read Nehemiah 7:5-7:73 for an overview of the passage.

## Context

At this point in the story the city has been fortified, the wall is finished but the city had few people in it. Nehemiah sets out to organize the people by genealogy. While doing so he discovers the register of exiles who returned from Babylon. He reconciles the people in the city with this original list to verify their land (vs. 6) and to verify their claim to membership in the city (vs. 61-65). We see that the people who populate the city are those who were redeemed from captivity in Babylon. As a church, we seek to do the same, however we do not have a list. Therefore, we preach the Gospel and invite all who will put their faith in Jesus as their savior to join us within the city of the church.

## Walking in step with God

Reread Nehemiah 7:5 and consider the simple obedience and participation of God with Nehemiah in a relatively mundane task.

- Why does Nehemiah decide to assemble the people into their genealogies?
- How do you make decisions? Does the size of the decision dictate what you do?
- What is the highest goal that you have in mind when making choices?
- How does that reflect your relationship with God?
- How do you determine if the direction you are taking is from God?

## Named among the redeemed

Reread Nehemiah 7:6-65. Consider what is behind the names and sizes of these families. As well, consider the reason for the original register and how it was used by Nehemiah.

- What did it mean to have your name found on the original register?
- What spiritual reality is pictured here?
- Where do you find your confidence in your position in the kingdom of God?
- What is the consequence of not being found in the register? (verse 61-65)
- What steps are you taking to ensure a lasting legacy of Christ's work within you?

## Where do I fit in the body

Reread Nehemiah 7:66-73. Think about your place in the body of Christ.

- If the church had a list, where would you name be? (Where has God called you to serve in the body?)
- How has God been preparing you for that work?
- Where has God convicted you on your faithfulness to the body of Christ?
- Where has God encouraged you for your faithfulness?

## Reflection and Prayer

Reflect on the attributes of God and the elements of the Gospel you see in this passage. How do your thoughts and actions testify to the truth you see in these Scriptures? Pray that this scripture would transform your life and renew your mind.